

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 PM-03

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SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /080 W

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R 170822Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2809

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO, AO

SUBJ: ANTUNES ON ANGOLA: POINT OF HONOR

REF: (A) LISBON 2692 (B) LISBON 2741

1. GOP FOREIGN MINISTER MELO ANTUNES OFFERED BRIEF PRESS
CONFERENCE SHORTLY AFTER MAY 15 ARRIVAL FROM ANGOLA. ANTUNES
SAID IT WOULD BE "UTOPIAN" TO THINK THAT ANGOLA WILL BE
PEACEFUL WITHOUT FIRM INTERVENTION BY GOP TROOPS. ANTUNES CLAIMED
THAT IF GOP TROOPS HADN'T BEEN PRESENT DURING THE RECENT WAVE OF
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FIGHTING, THE SITUATION WOULD BE MUCH WORSE. ANTUNES ADMITTED

THAT THE NUMBER OF GOP TROOPS IN ANGOLA IS INSUFFICIENT TO PREVENT A "GENERALCONFLICT" AND SAID THAT IN SUCH A CASE, THE GOP WOULD HAVE TO TAKE "IMMEDIATE POLITICAL MEASURES." ANTUNES REEMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION.

2. IN A REVIEW OF THE LATEST MEASURES PROMULGATED BY THE ANGOLAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IN RESPONSE TO THE RECENT VIOLENCE, (CREATION OF MIXED MILITARY FORCE, DISARMING CIVILIANS, AND AN INDEPENDENT GOP FORCE TO ENFORCE ORDER AS THE LAST RESORT), ANTUNES SINGLED OUT THE INTEGRATED MILITARYBODY AS SIGNIFICANT AND MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR.

3. ON THE SUBJECT OF GOP COMMITMENT, ANTUNES SAID IT IS A "POINT OF HONOR" THAT THE GOP GUARANTEE PEACEFUL DECOLONIZATION IN ANGOLA. ANTUNES REJECTED THE SUGGESTION OF A "VIETNAMIZATION" OF THE ANGOLAN SITUATION AND FURTHER SAID THAT ALTHOUGH FOREIGN INTERVENTION MAY EXIST, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOP TO ENSURE THAT THE FOREIGN INFLUENCE DOES NOT PUT IN RISK ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE. ANTUNES LABELLED THE NOVEMBER 11 INDEPENDENCE DATE AS "SACRED".

4. COMMENT: GOP IS RELUCTANTLY BEGINNING TO FACE UP TO NEED TO UTILIZE ITS MILITARY FORCES IN ANGOLA. ANTUNES'S COMMENT RE TROOP USE OPPOSES COMMUNIST PARTY LINE ENUNCIATED IN ITS MAY 14 NOTE (REF B.)
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